

In the Claims

1. (currently amended) A method of deploying a fixed wireless access communications network such that a specified level of link performance is maintained, said network comprising a plurality of base stations and a plurality of subscriber stations, each subscriber station being arranged to communicate with one of the base stations via a communications link, said method comprising the steps of:-
 - (i) receiving a request including a proposed ~~to-change~~ to the communications network;
 - (ii) determining a level of link performance provided by each of the communications links taking into account the proposed change; and
 - (iii) effecting the proposed change if each of said determined levels of link performance are greater than the ~~pre~~-specified level of link performance.
2. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said step (ii) of determining comprises calculating a predicted level of link performance on the basis of location ~~information about the locations of~~ regarding each base station, and each subscriber station and information about the communications links between each subscriber station and its associated base station.
3. (original) A method as claimed in claim 2 wherein said information about the communications links comprises information about a fixed frequency plan used to arrange the communications network.
4. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said step (ii) of determining comprises measuring the level of link performance.
5. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said proposed change to the communications network comprises the addition of an additional subscriber station, and wherein ~~said step (iii) further comprises, if at least one of said determined levels of link performance is not greater than said specified level, then keeping said proposed~~ additional ~~subscriber station on hold and not effecting the proposed change if at least one of said determined levels of link performance is not greater than said specified level.~~
6. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said proposed change to the communications network comprises the addition of an additional subscriber station and wherein said method further comprises the step of selecting a chosen

A 1

base station with which the additional subscriber station is to communicate if the proposed change is effected.

7. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 6 wherein each of the communications links is associated with one of a plurality of communications channels and wherein ~~said step of selecting a base station~~ the method further comprises selecting a channel for communication between the ~~proposed~~ additional subscriber station and the chosen base station.
8. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 7 wherein said channel is selected on the basis of information about the communications network ~~and in an arbitrary manner~~.
9. (original) A method as claimed in claim 7 wherein said channel is selected on the basis of a fixed frequency plan.
10. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 7 ~~which further comprises, wherein~~ if at least one of said determined levels of link performance is not greater than said specified level for said channel, ~~then the method further comprises selecting a different channel for communication between the additional subscriber station and the chosen base station repeating the method for the same chosen base station but a different selected channel~~.
11. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the specified level of link performance level ~~may differ~~ is different for different subscriber stations.
12. (original) A method as claimed in claim 2 wherein said predicted link performance levels are determined on the basis of estimated link budgets.
13. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 2 wherein said predicted link performance levels are determined on the basis of a calculated value $C/(I+A+N)$, where C is an estimate of the ~~a carrier level for the link~~, I is an ~~divided by the sum of estimates estimate of each of the~~ an interference level for the link, A is an estimate of an ~~plus the adjacent channel interference level for an adjacent channel for the~~ link, and N is an estimate of the ~~a noise level for the link~~.
14. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 5 which further comprises the step of calculating a ratio of ~~the~~ a number of additional subscriber stations placed on hold to ~~the~~ a total number of requests including a proposed change to the communications network comprising the proposed additional of an additional subscriber station to add subscriber stations to the network.

- AI
15. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said fixed wireless access communications network is organised according to a fixed frequency plan.
 16. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said fixed wireless access communications network is not organised according to a fixed frequency plan.
 17. (currently amended) A computer system for deploying a fixed wireless access communications network such that a specified level of link performance is maintained, said network comprising a plurality of base stations and a plurality of subscriber stations, each subscriber station being arranged to communicate with one of the base stations via a communications link, said computer system comprising:-
 - (i) an input arranged to receive a request including a proposed ~~to~~-change to the communications network;
 - (ii) a processor arranged to determine a level of link performance provided by each of the communications links, taking into account the proposed change to the communications network; and wherein said processor is further arranged to allow the proposed change to be effected if each of said determined levels of link performance are greater than the ~~pre~~-specified level of link performance.
 18. (currently amended) A computer program stored on a computer readable medium and arranged to control a computer system such that a fixed wireless access communications network may be deployed whilst a specified level of link performance is maintained, said network comprising a plurality of base stations and a plurality of subscriber stations, each subscriber station being arranged to communicate with one of the base stations via a communications link, said computer program being arranged to control said computer system such that:-
 - (i) a request is received including a proposed ~~to~~-change to the communications network;
 - (ii) a level of link performance provided by each of the communications links is determined, taking into account the proposed change; and
 - (iii) said change is effected if each of said determined levels of link performance are greater than the ~~pre~~-specified level of link performance.
 19. (currently amended) A fixed wireless access communications network comprising:-
 - (i) a plurality of base stations and a plurality of subscriber stations;
 - (ii) a communications link between each subscriber station and one of the base stations; and wherein each of said communications links link provides a specified level of link performance.

- A1
20. A fixed wireless access communications network as claimed in claim 19 wherein the locations of the base stations are selected according to a fixed frequency plan, and the frequencies of ~~said~~ each communications links ~~are~~ is selected according to the fixed frequency plan.
-